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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

1 March 1983

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Special Assistant to the
Vice Director for Intelligence
Defense Intelligence Agency
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After some delay, we have finally had the opportunity to review and discuss your study in detail. While it has been a little difficult to directly relate the needs and capabilities of the NIC with those of DIA, our NIOs have found some use in terms of identifying possible issues which have not been previously raised. Our general feelings are that the items in category three are those which need greater emphasis than those in category one. But, there should be some attempt to narrow the scope to those events of significance upon which actions of the policy community can have some impact.

On the less positive side, we are a bit suspicious of the methodology which relies so heavily on the questionnaire without any resort to a more collegial approach to identification and discussion of the problem. Perhaps out of this can be derived a series of topics which could be discussed by analytic peer groups. We would also urge that you strengthen the distinction between forecasts and contingencies.

In sum, I see no primary role to be played by the NIC in your efforts although we encourage all such attempts to expand the horizons of our analytic work force and to encourage the development of opposing view points. Please keep us informed of your progress.


Henry S. Rowen
Chairman